

**Presentation on 2009 USGS Budget  
ACWI Meeting Feb 20, 2008**

The USGS budget request for 2009 is \$968.5 million, a decrease of \$37.9 million from the 2008 appropriation.

For the Water Resources programs, USGS is requesting \$203 million, which is a decrease of about \$17.5 million from 2008.

The major decreases for the Water programs are --

- A \$10 million reduction for the National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) program,
- A reduction of about \$0.5 million in the Cooperative Water Program,
- Elimination of grants to the State Water Resources Research Institutes,
- Elimination of congressional earmarks from 2008 totaling about \$4 million,
- An across-the-board travel reduction of about \$1 million, and
- Program transfers of about \$5 million associated with two restructures of the budget: one to consolidate all of the bureau's global climate change funds in a new budget line item titled Global Change and another to consolidate funding for the Priority Ecosystems Science Program.

The budget restructures will not affect the work performed. Current studies will continue to their scheduled conclusion. The restructures are primarily a budget presentation strategy, intended to allow the bureau to more easily explain the type of work we do in these particular scientific areas.

Within the requested funding level are two proposed increases that will be of particular interest to ACWI members:

- \$9.5 million for the Water for America initiative -- including \$1.5 million in the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, \$3 million in the Ground-Water Resources Program, and \$5 million in the National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP).

The NSIP increase includes \$3 million for streamgage reactivations and enhanced assessments of the Nation's surface water, and \$2 million to begin required upgrades of the radios that telemeter data to the GOES satellite system. The current radios must be replaced so that the streamgages will continue to transmit data after the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration upgrades the GOES system in 2013.

Additional details of Water for America will be presented later this afternoon.

- The other increase proposed in the 2009 budget is for the National Water Quality Monitoring Network (NWQMN), which responds to the Ocean Action Plan. The 2008 budget proposed an increase of \$1.5 million in the Hydrologic Networks and Analysis program to begin network implementation, following the gap analysis that was conducted during 2007. Unfortunately, the Congress was able to provide only \$1 million of the requested increase in 2008, so the 2009 budget proposes an additional increase of \$0.5 million, to bring the effort up to the full \$1.5 million level that was proposed in 2008.